



# THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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## TRUMP PAID JUST \$750 IN INCOME TAXES DURING 2016, 17

He paid no income taxes at all in 10 of the last 15 years, The New York Times reported on Monday citing his tax-return data

## QUESTIONABLE REFUNDS AND DEDUCTIONS

Starting 2010, Trump has claimed and received income tax refunds totalling \$72.9 million. The Internal Revenue Service is presently probing the legitimacy of the refunds. An adverse ruling could cost Trump \$100 million in penalty. The report also says he took tax deductions on personal expenses such as housing, aircraft and \$70,000 in hairstyling for TV shows

## HE IS SITTING ON A MOUNTAIN OF DEBT

The Times report also revealed Trump is sitting on a ticking time bomb of debt. The tax records show he's holding a total of \$4.21 million in loans and debt that are due in the next four years. Most of that debt comes from his Doral golf resort in Florida and Washington hotel, which are financially struggling | P12

\$145,400

TAX HIS UNITS PAID TO INDIA IN 2017, IN CONTRAST TO HIS SLIM INCOME TAX

# FIND WORKAROUND TO FARM LAWS, SAYS SONIA

Asks Cong-ruled states to pass laws overriding reform legislation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
@New Delhi/Chandigarh

STEPPING up her attack on the new farm laws that have left a section of farmers roiled, Congress President Sonia Gandhi on Monday asked party-ruled states to explore the possibility of workaround laws under Article 254(2) of the Constitution to override the contentious reform legislation.

While Congress-ruled state governments are also exploring legal options, a party MP from Kerala, T N Prathapan, has already approached the Supreme Court challenging the Constitutional validity of the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020.

Farmers, especially in Punjab and Haryana, have been agitating against the three laws, which the Centre says are revolutionary as they would ensure better prices for their produce.

Among the sticking points in the new laws, according to the Opposition, are the lack of explicit guarantees written into them on continuing the existing minimum support price



### Plan to intensify stir in Punjab

Farmers plan to lay siege to corporate houses, offices, malls and residences of BJP leaders in Punjab. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is expected to join agitating Punjab farmers on Gandhi Jayanti on October 2

(MSP) system and allowing big corporate houses into the farm sector.

"Hon'ble Congress President has asked Congress-ruled states to explore the possibilities to pass laws in their states under Article 254(2) of the Constitution, which allows the state legislatures to pass a law to override a Central law, which then comes for President's assent," said K C Venugopal, Con-

gress general secretary in charge of the organisation.

According to Article 254(2), "Where a law made by the Legislature of a State with respect to one of the matters enumerated in the Concurrent List contains any provision repugnant to the provisions of an earlier law made by Parliament or an existing law with respect to that matter, then, the law so made by the Legislature of such State shall, if it has been reserved for the consideration of the President and has received his assent, prevail in that State."

As for the legal challenge, Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh said agitation and legal recourse will have to be undertaken simultaneously.

"Our lawyers are coming from Delhi tomorrow (Tuesday). We will discuss how to proceed in the matter and then challenge the legislation in the Supreme Court," he said.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot submitted a memorandum to President Ram Nath Kovind and Governor Kalraj Mishra seeking rollback of the legislation. P9



### Congress seeks Gov's intervention

Extending support to the farmers, a Congress delegation of AKC General Secretary in charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala, KPCC chief DK Shivakumar, and Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah, among others, met Governor Vajubhai Vala, seeking his intervention to withdraw the farm bills. P4

Members of farmer organisations and activists protest against the Centre and state's farm bills, at Town Hall in Bengaluru on Monday | SHRIHARSH

# Bandh gets mixed response in K'taka

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
@Bengaluru

THE call for a statewide bandh by farmer organisations on Monday received a mixed response in Karnataka as police cracked down on protesters, detaining them at the first sight of disruption.

Protests, however, were witnessed across the state with over 50 organisations, including labour unions, Dalit organisations, pro-Kannada outfits, student bodies and Opposition parties, joining farmers in their protest against amendments to land and farm acts.

Hundreds of protesters gathered at Town Hall in Bengaluru on Monday afternoon

### BSY to visit farmers and create awareness

On a day when farmers in the state called for a state-wide bandh, CM B S Yediyurappa said they were being misled with wrong information. He said he would personally go on a state-wide tour and meet farmers, and create awareness among them on the amendments to the farm and land bills. "I appeal to my farmers to wait for six months and watch how the reforms will turn out. It will be favourable for them," the Chief Minister said. P4

before rain played spoilsport. The bandh was near complete in the Mysuru and Old Mysuru regions with business establishments readily backing it.

In Mysuru, most shops in the central business district were shut voluntarily till afternoon, while state transport corporation bus services were suspended for some time in

Vijayapura and Kalaburagi. In Bengaluru, protests led to massive traffic snarls at several places, including KR Puram and Sumanahalli junctions, Majestic and central parts of the city, as rallies began from the outer ring roads and reached Mysuru Bank Circle.

As over 5,000 farmers joined the rally at Mysuru Bank Cir-

cle, Maurya Circle, and Town Hall junction, commuters were stuck in traffic jams on JC Road, KR Circle and Nrupathunga Road.

Karnataka Rakshana Vedike activists barged into Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna Railway Station and Kempegowda International Airport, while some organisations blocked highways and toll gates. The police took thousands of protesters into custody when they tried to stop vehicles at various places in the city.

The protests began around 6.30 am, and in many places, protesters forced owners of some commercial establishments to close for the day.

CONTINUED ON: P4

# No quorum: RBI meet put off as govt sits on vacancies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
@New Delhi

THE Reserve Bank of India on Monday postponed its three-day monetary policy meeting that was scheduled to begin from Tuesday.

While RBI did not cite any reason, experts said the meeting could not have taken place anyway, due to lack of quorum. The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) currently has only three members, while four must be present to hold the meeting. The terms of three external members — Chetan Ghate, Pami Dua and Ravindra Dholakia — ended last month, but the government is yet to announce replacements for them. Half of the panel, led by the

RBI Governor, comprises external independent members with a four-year term. External members are not eligible for reappointment.

Earlier, the government had declined the central bank's request to extend the tenure of the members. Instead, a panel led by Department of Economic Affairs secretary Tarun Bajaj was set up to select new members.

Experts say the procedural delay could handicap crucial decision-making. "The economy is facing a serious challenge and RBI has been leading from the front with quick responses through rate cuts etc. This delay could have been avoided," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

# Interest on interest cannot be waived, FinMin may tell SC

ANURADHA SHUKLA @New Delhi

WHILE the Centre on Monday sought more time from the Supreme Court to clarify its stand on 'interest on interest' on suspended EMIs during the loan moratorium period, sources told *TNIE* that the Finance Ministry has made up its mind that it cannot be waived off.

"The Department of Financial Services has already spoken to banks and is of the view that waiving this interest on interest will further strain the financials of banks. One cannot weaken a business to strengthen another. Banks have raised their concern in this regard and their feedback had been submitted to the Centre," said a senior Finance Ministry official.

### Loan moratorium case adjourned till Oct 5

The Supreme Court on Monday adjourned the loan moratorium case till October 5, granting more time to the Centre, RBI and banks to work together and file a concrete reply on their stand

Similar feedback was given by the Rajiv Mehriishi panel, whose report is yet to be made public, the official added.

"The Mehriishi panel's view is that the government can bear the burden of interest on interest, so that neither bankers nor customers will have to take a hit. But the overall financial burden on banks will have to be calculated. Given

the situation of the exchequer, this is not a comfortable option. Much will depend on what RBI says," the official told *TNIE*.

On Monday, the Centre informed the Supreme Court that it will take a decision on the interest on interest issue in the next two or three days.

The case has been pending in the top court for the past few months. In May, RBI told the court that it was not in favour of a "forced waiver of interest", as it would not only hurt the financial viability of banks, but also affect the interests of depositors. Subsequently, the Finance Ministry told the SC that it was in agreement with RBI's stand. This drew sharp comments from the court that the government cannot hide behind RBI.

BJP MP Tejasvi Surya calling Bengaluru, a global city known for Technology and Innovation, as an epicenter of terror is highly condemnable. GDP growth has crashed and with such statements, which investor will come to Bengaluru & Karnataka? Will PM and FM answer. — DK Shivakumar, KPCC president

# Surya's terror remark gets Bengalureans' goat

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
@Bengaluru

NEWLY-appointed BJP Yuva Morcha president Tejasvi Surya's remarks on Bengaluru becoming an epicentre of terror activities drew sharp criticism from the opposition Congress, which demanded sacking of the young Bangalore South MP, even as netizens termed his remark "injustice to the vibrant city". Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa, however, tried to downplay the MP's statements.

Surya, who is currently in Bihar, had said on Sunday in Delhi that over the last few years, Bengaluru had become a terror epicentre, and thanked Union Home Minister Amit Shah for promising the state government that the National Investigation Agency (NIA) office would be located in Bengaluru.

Yediyurappa defended his party MP, saying what Surya meant was that terror activities have increased nowadays and an NIA office in the state capital would help. But Surya's

comment drew a lot of flak. KPCC president DK Shivakumar demanded that the BJP sack the MP for the comments.

Former minister and MLA Priyank Kharge asked BJP leaders in the state to explain how many terror activities have been orchestrated in Bengaluru, and said Industries Minister Jagadish Shetkar would now have a tough time convincing investors to come to the "epicentre of terror".

State Congress working president Saleem Ahmed termed it "shameful". Surya must apologise, he demanded.

Several people took to social media to slam the MP and accused him of damaging Bengaluru's image. Many questioned the logic behind making such remarks to push the Centre to set up an NIA office in Bengaluru. Some even compared Surya's remarks to Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut's recent comment describing Mumbai as "POK".

# Covid-19 positivity rate rising, poor worst hit

RANJANI MADHAVAN @Bengaluru

FROM July 5 till Monday, the Covid positivity rate has increased steadily from 3.32 per cent to 12.34 per cent. The trend of virus spread remains worrisome, even as the mortality rate has declined from 2 per cent in July to 1.48 per cent on Monday.

Dr M K Sudarshan, chairman, Karnataka Covid Technical Advisory Committee,



A BBMP health worker in Bengaluru on Monday | WOODWARD

said the reason for the increase in positivity rate is more testing of contacts, with

less of Rapid Antigen Testing and more of RT-PCR tests.

"The transmission is more across lower- and lower-middle-income groups due to their living conditions, crowding in their areas and lack of awareness on wearing masks. They bring Covid-19 home and infect others as well. They may not have facilities at home to maintain social distance. The situation is better among the higher- and middle-income

households," Dr Sudarshan said, adding that by just being around a positive patient, one does not catch the virus. "The virus spreads when both the negative and positive individuals do not wear masks, thereby getting exposed; both are within one metre distance; and their duration of interaction is over 20 minutes. Moreover, family members sit and eat together and therefore become primary contacts," he said. P3

# Exorcist thrashes 2-yr-old girl to death in Chitradurga

ENS @Chitradurga

THE superstitious belief of her parents that she was possessed, cost the life of a two-year-old girl at Ajjikyathana-halli village near Chikmagalur in Chitradurga district late on Sunday night.

Poornika's parents took her to Yellamma Temple to let priest Rakesh exorcise

her of ghosts. But when he allegedly started thrashing her with neem sticks, she collapsed and died. But Rakesh convinced the parents that the girl had been rid of spirits and she would be fine once she is treated.

When the girl was rushed to hospital, the doctors declared her brought dead. Rakesh has been arrested.

# BU students get kisan funds instead of scholarships

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA  
@Bengaluru

STUDENTS from Bangalore University were in for a surprise when they received an SMS alert recently about money being deposited in their account under the PM Kisan Samman Yojana (PMKSY) and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee



Act (MGNREGA).

The amounts ranged from Rs 6,000 to Rs 30,000, and these

SC/ST students were not sure as to why the money was deposited all of a sudden.

However, when they checked their SSD portal (the communication link between them and the social welfare department that disburses their annual scholarships), they realised that the amount shown in the text message was reflected in the portal. This meant that

the money came from the social welfare department itself.

The period from May to July was hard for nearly 300 scholars from various schools of studies under Bangalore University, as they did not receive even the Rs 750 per month for their day-to-day expenses which they should have got from the social welfare department. P7

## EXPRESS READ

### Senior bureaucrat Vaghela is TRAI chair

New Delhi: Senior bureaucrat P D Vaghela on Monday was appointed as Chairman of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), according to a Personnel Ministry order. P13

## TODAY'S MATCH



DELHI VS HYDERABAD

Delhi Capitals are on top. Surrisers Hyderabad at the bottom. Hyderabad would look to record their first win while Hyderabad would want to consolidate

LIVE: Star Sports1/Hotstar @ 7.30pm

## SUPER VICTORY FOR BANGALORE

Royal Challengers Bangalore clinched a thrilling victory, via a Super Over, against defending champs Mumbai Indians on Monday. Batting first, RCB posted 201/3 in 20 overs before Mumbai made a thrilling chase to match the score (201/5) | P15